

A1  
Cont. 2. (Amended) The insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 1, wherein the contact-making slot includes at least one blunt contact zone to protect a conductor core.

3. (Amended) The insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 2, wherein the spring clip and blade are formed from suitably hard material, and wherein the contact region is formed from electrically conductive material.

4. (Amended) The insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 1, wherein each connecting bracket forms a contact-making slot at each of its ends.

Sub 1 5. (Amended) The insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the spring clip and the connecting bracket are designed such that the limbs of the spring clip secure the contact-making slot in its position.

6. (Amended) The insulating displacement contact as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cutting blade on the end region forms an entry region capable of cutting, and located in front of the contact region.

7. (Amended) A connecting terminal having at least one insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 1.

8. (Amended) A terminal strip having at least one insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 1.

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**Please add the following new claims:**

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A2 -- 9. The insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 2, wherein each connecting bracket forms a contact-making slot at each of its ends.

10. The insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 3, wherein each connecting bracket forms a contact-making slot at each of its ends.

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11. The insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one of the spring clip and the connecting bracket are designed such that the limbs of the spring clip secure the contact-making slot in its position.

12. The insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one of the spring clip and the connecting bracket are designed such that the limbs of the spring clip secure the contact-making slot in its position.

13. An insulating displacement contact as claimed in claim 2, wherein the cutting blade on the end region forms an entry region capable of cutting, and located in front of the contact region.

14. An insulating displacement contact as claimed in claim 3, wherein the cutting blade on the end region forms an entry region capable of cutting, and located in front of the contact region.

15. A connecting terminal having at least one insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 2.

16. A connecting terminal having at least one insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 3.

17. A connecting terminal having at least one insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 4.

18. A connecting terminal having at least one insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 5.

19. A connecting terminal having at least one insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 6.

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20. A terminal strip having at least one insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 2.
21. A terminal strip having at least one insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 3.
22. A terminal strip having at least one insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 4.
23. A terminal strip having at least one insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 5.
24. A terminal strip having at least one insulation displacement contact as claimed in claim 6. --
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**REMARKS**

Claims 1-24 are now present in this application, with new claims 9-24 being added by the present Preliminary Amendment. It should be noted that the amendments to original claims 1-8 of the present application are non-narrowing amendments, made solely to place the claims in proper form for U.S. practice and not to overcome any prior art or for any other statutory considerations. For example, amendments have been made to broaden the claims; remove reference numerals in the claims; remove the European phrase "characterized in that"; remove multiple dependencies in the claims; and to place claims in a more recognizable U.S. form, including the use of the transitional phrase "comprising" as well as the phrase "wherein". Other such non-narrowing amendments include changing "and/or" to -at least one of—and placing apparatus-type claims in a more recognizable U.S. form (setting elements forth in separate paragraphs, for example). Again, all amendments are non-